

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 34, 56, 68 and 72 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 34-37, 40-47 and 49-72 are pending, and claims 1-33, 38-39 and 48 have been canceled.

Claim 68 has been amended to properly depend from claim 67.

Claims 34, 36, 40-47, 49-53 and 56-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Huang, et al (US 5,588,331). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 34 and 56 have been amended to clarify that the rotatable dial is not structured to surround a handlebar so as to rotate coaxially around the handlebar. In other words, claims 34 and 56 (and the claims that depend from those claims) are not directed to twist-grip shifting devices such as the device shown in Huang, et al.

Claims 34-37, 56-59 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wechsler (US 3, 965,763). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 34 and 56 also have been amended to clarify that the finger contact projection protrudes radially inwardly from a radially innermost outer peripheral surface. This is directly opposite the configuration of the radially outwardly extending knobs (32) in Wechsler.

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang, et al. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing Huang, et al.

Claims 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of White, et al (US 3,398,600). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing Wechsler.

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Claims 61-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Knop (US 3,766,793). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing Wechsler.

Additionally, the device disclosed in Knop is directed to the automotive industry, which is a very different field from the bicycle field. Also, Knop is not at all concerned about the problems of shifting as found in a bicycling environment. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Knop is nonanalogous art and is not within the proper scope and content of the relevant prior art.

Furthermore, the office action states that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of Wechsler and Knop in order to provide a more ergonomic knob that can be turned with more ease. To the contrary, the Wechsler device has a relatively large mechanical advantage. If the examiner is suggesting that it would be obvious to put a diametrically extending knob across the upper surface of Wechsler's dial, then such a knob would decrease the mechanical advantage in that the user most likely would grab the knob with only two fingers. In the Wechsler device, the rider can grab multiple projections (32) with multiple fingers, wherein each finger would be sandwiched between an adjacent pair of projections (32), thus making the dial easier to turn. If the examiner is suggesting that it would be obvious to add a vertical projection to each of Wechsler's projections (32), then such vertical projections also would decrease the effectiveness because then the rider must lift his or her palm up from the upper surface of the dial. Finally, such vertical projections would increase the risk that the rider's fingers could become tangled in such projections or that the vertical projections would press against the palm, thus causing great discomfort.


Claim 72 also was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Knop. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing claims 61-70.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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PATENT

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